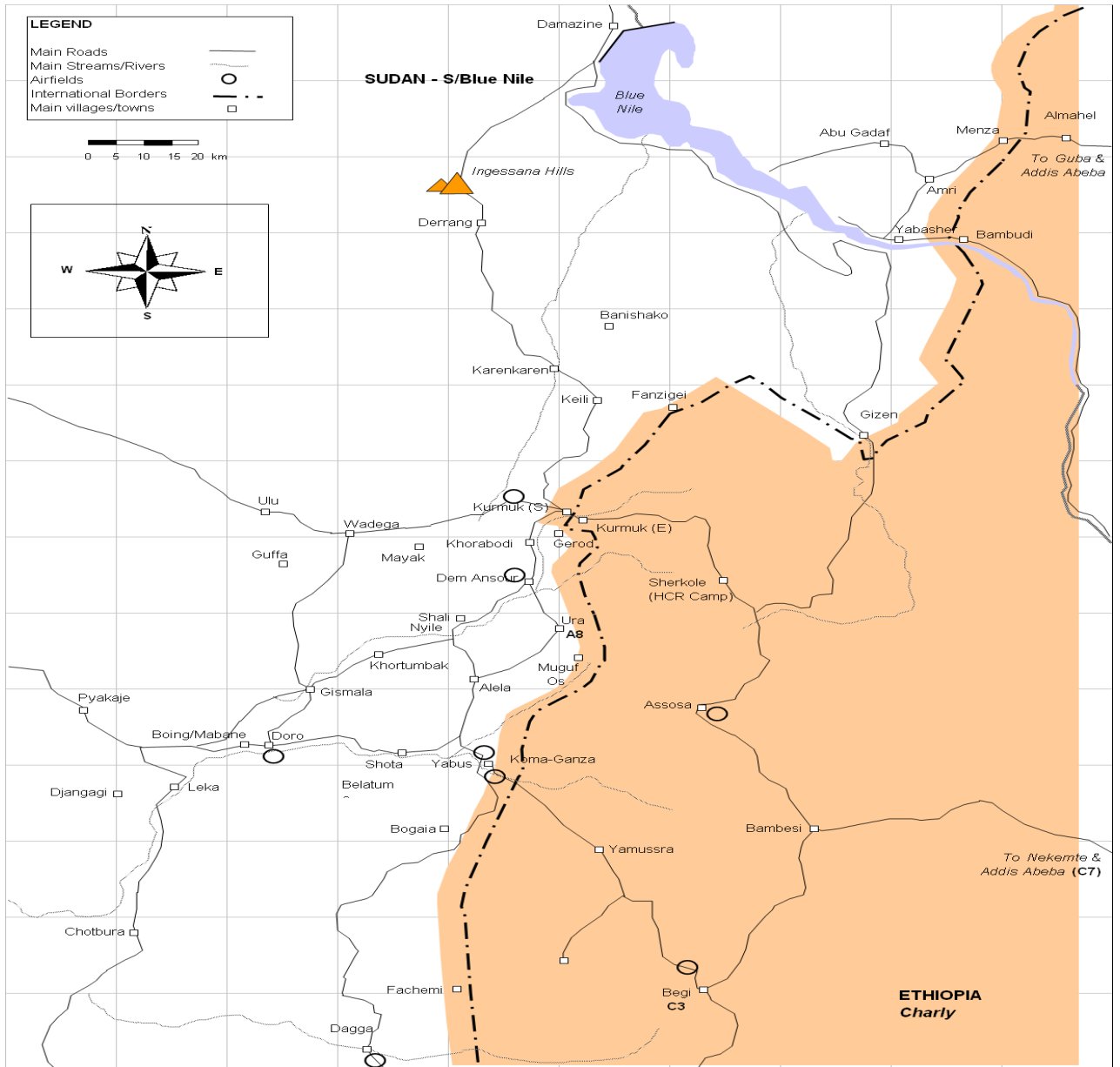


## Pilot Radio Training and Distribution in Blue Nile State December 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>



Map of Blue Nile, courtesy of GOAL

We would like to thank Bakri Abdelbasit from PAC and Bullen from EDC for their leadership throughout the radio training and distribution. In addition, we would like to thank GOAL for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us and for facilitating transportation throughout Blue Nile. Finally, we would like to thank World Learning for supporting this pilot Radio Training.

## **Background**

### **Radio-Based Civic Education**

USAID has plans to increase civic awareness through NDI's radio based civic education program that will teach citizens about the CPA, the new Constitution(s), and their new rights to enable them to be good citizens and hold their governmental officials accountable. This program will be accomplished through the distribution of approximately 75,000 radios to target audience groups to facilitate radio-based civic education. NDI will concentrate its efforts on more isolated areas (e.g., Upper Nile and the transitional areas), targeting lower-income and marginalized segments of the population. Special target groups will also include women, youth, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), demobilized child soldiers, ex-combatants, and individuals in areas severely affected by the war.

**Listening Groups** To complement the radio-based programming and to facilitate a systematic and targeted distribution, NDI will partner with Mercy Corps<sup>1</sup> to organize listening groups in locations throughout southern Sudan, including Agok, Aweil, Kauda, Kurmuk, Panyajar, and Yei. By organizing these groups on a monthly basis in each location, local citizens will be afforded an opportunity to debate and discuss important issues concerning the implementation of the peace process, the GOSS, their constitutional rights and responsibilities, and the political developments of southern Sudan. With the support of USAID, Mercy Corps plans to establish a regional resource center in six locations in New Sudan (BEG, Equatoria, Upper Nile, Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Southern Blue Nile) to provide meeting, communication and training space for civil society organizations (CSOs). Each center will be equipped with a conference room, computers, printer, photocopy machine, radios, television, and VCR and satellite phone. These centers will serve as a facility for hosting the listening groups. After listening to a radio segment on the constitutional provision that concerns a woman's right to own land, for instance, a group of citizens in the town of Kauda could discuss the implications of this provision in their local community.

NDI will visit each of the six locations quarterly: first to recruit and train at least two individuals (one man and one woman) to organize the groups and facilitate the discussions, second to monitor and track the radios distributed, and third to evaluate the impact of their civic education programming. Although these trained facilitators would be responsible to NDI, Mercy Corps may also employ the same individuals to assist with their civil society and institutional capacity building program. Using the Mercy Corps centers as meeting spaces and as information hubs for each location, NDI will not only build awareness regarding its radio-based civic education programs, but also disseminate materials that complement the radio programming to the local community

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the larger, three-year USAID-supported "Localizing Institutional Capacity in Southern Sudan" (LINCSS), Mercy Corps and the International Rescue Committee have partnered with the goal of strengthening the capacity of as many as 56 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Southern Sudan, including 20 new CSOs in the six locations mentioned above.

### Training and Distribution Locations

Location	Kurmuk		Yabus		Maguf		Belatuma		Jardin		Demansour		Gerod	
Number of persons trained	<u>M</u> 30	<u>F</u> 72	<u>M</u> 40	<u>F</u> 20	<u>M</u> 60	<u>F</u> 71	<u>M</u> 65	<u>F</u> 60	<u>M</u> 20	<u>F</u> 20	<u>M</u> 35	<u>F</u> 20	<u>M</u> 20	<u>F</u> 20

## Major Findings

### Radio Ownership

There are no radios available in the local markets. However, radios are being sold across the border in Ethiopia, and it was clear that the great majority of male local leaders in Kurmuk own a radio. However, there was only one chief in Maguf and Belatuma who owned a radio. SRS was widely known throughout Kurmuk, but not in Maguf or Belatuma (rural areas).

### Radios

The Bolan radio appears to be robust, and has the ability to pick up Omdurman, SRS, BBC and Nile Radio. However, eight of the 581 radios did not work. The short wave dials were broken. I will ask Bolan to replace the defective receivers. It took a long time to train and to explain the three separate power button choices (i.e. Bat/SOL/NiCd). I would suggest modifying the design of this dial.

### Pilot Training (no more than 15 per group)

It took approximately 75 minutes to distribute and translate the USAID/Community radio agreement, train in usage and maintenance for women and 45 minutes for men. All recipients signed agreements of understanding incorporating the following conditions: the solar powered wind up radios are for the exclusive use of community listening group; the guardian has the responsibility to share with the listening group any news of importance; the radio must not be sold and that it may only be lent to those who are in the listening group; theft or damage will be reported to Chicke Solomon at ROOF, etc. Two copies of the agreement were signed. One agreement remained with the guardian of the radio, and the other will be stored at USAID. The radios were also clearly marked with code numbers for monitoring and tracking purposes.



### Phase One: Radio based Civic Education Program

NDI in partnership with Mercy Corps will conduct the first phase of radio training and distribution throughout southern Sudan and the transition areas. Based on lessons from Blue Nile, I would recommend that NDI in partnership with Mercy Corps secure

numerous local trainers and identify the exact number of radios earmarked for each community, and clearly communicate the number to the local authorities (chiefs) beforehand. For instance, if there are 10 chiefs in one community, I would recommend informing the paramount chief of the number of radios available for distribution. Each chief should identify 4 men and 5 women for training. If possible, inform the chiefs one day beforehand. I do not recommend distributing radios in a market, but would suggest that distribution take place in a school or other locations that are more secluded to avoid requests from all present for a radio during distribution.

### **Sudan Radio Service**

Depending on the radio model, SRS is broadcasted on different frequencies. SRS will need to create new frequency pamphlets to reflect the radios being distributed by NDI.

### **Training and Distribution Locations:**

#### **Kurmuk**

Eight women leaders from Kurmuk town, 52 male local leaders, including chiefs, SRRC and the executive director, and 32 teachers and nurses were trained and provided with solar-wind-up radios.

#### **Yabus**

Forty male local leaders, including chiefs and 20 female health outreach coordinators were trained and provided with solar-wind-up radios.

#### **Maguf**

There are six chiefs in Maguf. Radio training was provided to the six chiefs, 54 male leaders and 71 women. Twenty-one of the women who received training and radios are widows.

#### **Belatuma**

Radio training was provided to nine chiefs in Belatuma, 56 male leaders and 60 women (16 of the 60 radios were given to female headed households).

#### **Jardin**

Twenty male local leaders, including chiefs and 20 female leaders were trained and provided with solar-wind-up radios.

#### **Demansour**

Twenty male local leaders, 15 teachers from the training center and 20 female community leaders were trained and provided radios.

#### **Gerod**

Twenty male local leaders and 20 female community leaders were trained and provided radios.